

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-20 COME-00 BIB-01
/076 W

-----013450 300005Z /70

R 281857Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6518
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
US MISSION GENEVA 354

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 3372

WASH FOR EB/TD AND IO

GENEVA FOR TELCOM ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CITEL, ETEL, NTIA
SUBJECT: CITEL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III MEETING, JULY 24-28, 1978,
RIO DE JANEIRO

1. SUMMARY : CITEL PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III
(CTP III) MEETING HELD RIO DE JANEIRO FROM JULY 24-28, 1978,
WITH THIRTEEN WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE.
IN TERMS OF U.S. OBJECTIVES, MEETING WAS SUCCESSFUL AND WAS
OF BENEFIT TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN RELATION TO THEIR WARC-79
PREPARATIONS. DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING ARTICLES 9 AND 9A OF
RADIO REGULATIONS PROMPTED A FEW POLITICAL STATEMENTS,
MANELY REGARDING COLOMBIA'S CLAIM OVER GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.
END SUMMARY.

2. PERMANENT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III MEETING (CTP III) OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE (CITEL)
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WAS HELD IN RIO DE JANEIRO FROM JULY 24-28, 1978, AT THE
SHERATON HOTEL. IN ADDITION TO ATTENDANCE BY THIRTEEN
(13) WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES, REPRESENTATIVES FROM
THREE (3) INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE ALSO PRESENT:
UNDP, IMCO, AND SITA : ARGENTINA WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE
MEETING.

3. DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING WARC-79 WERE DETAILED, EMPHASIZING REVIEW OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RADIO REGULATION, AS SET FORTH BY THE U.S., CANADA, ARGENTINA, AND OTHERS. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE, MAJOR ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS WERE - BRAZIL, MEXICO, CHILE, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS FOCUSED UPON RADIO REGULATION ARTICLES 5, 9, 9A AND RECENT CONFERENCES BEARING UPON WARC-79.

4. ARGENTINA SUBMITTED DOCUMENT, WHICH COMPARES THEIR WARC-79 PROPOSALS IN ARTICLE 5 WITH THOSE OF FCC'S 8TH NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND CANADA'S 2ND DRAFT PROPOSALS. MEETING SPENT TWO FULL DAYS ANALYZING DOCUMENT, REVIEWING EACH FREQUENCY BAND OF THE RADIO SPECTRUM. THIS REVIEW UNABLED U.S. TO PRESENT OUR POSITION, SOUND OUT OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNING THEIR IDEAS, AND OBTAIN FIRSTHAND REACTION TO OUR THOUGHTS. PROCESS WAS HIGHLY VALUABLE AND SHOULD ENHANCE OUR ABILITY TO ANTICIPATE FUTURE TELECOMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE REGION, AS WELL AS SPELLING OUT PRESENT PROBLEMS AND NEED FOR COORDINATION ON SOME POINTS. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT WAS THE APPARENT RELUCTANCE OF MOST NATIONS PRESENT TO CONSIDER REDUCTION OF ALLOCATIONS TO THE FIXED SERVICE IN THE HF BANDS, PARTICULARLY WHEN SUCH REDUCTION WOULD PROVIDE NEW SPECTRUM FOR HF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING. LESS RELUCTANCE WAS EXPRESSED WHEN THE BENEFICIARY

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WOULD BE THE MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE. ALSO SIGNIFICANT WAS GENERAL SYMPATHY FOR PROPOSALS FOR AMATEUR SERVICE AT 3 AND 7 MHZ. SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING OTHER TOPICS PROVED TO BE OF EQUAL BENEFIT.

5. DURING OPENING OF REVIEW OF ARTICLES 9 AND 9A, WHICH OCCURRED TOWARD END OF WEEK, COLOMBIA'S REPRESENTATIVE PRESENTED ONLY POLITICAL STATEMENT OF MEETING. HE ADVISED THAT COLOMBIA WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT STANDARDS THAT WOULD BE IN CONTRADICTION TO COLOMBIA'S CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT. HE LATER REITERATED HIS STATEMENT BY DECLARING THAT COLOMBIA WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ASSIGN POSITIONS IN THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT TO NATIONS. THE U.S. RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO RESOLUTION NUMBER SPA 2-1 OF THE WORLD ADMINISTRATIVE RADIO CONFERENCE FOR SPACE TELECOMMUNICATIONS (1971), WHICH SETS FORTH THAT FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS SHOULD NOT PROVIDE ANY PERMANENT PRIORITY FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY AND THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT. DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION, BRAZIL STATED THAT THEY WERE NEUTRAL CONCERNING

GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT CLAIMS, PREFERRING TO WAIT UNTIL THE ENTIRE POSITION HAD TIME TO MATURE. THIS COMMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY A STATEMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ARGENTINA (CHAIRMAN OF MEETING), WHO INDICATED THAT THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT IS A LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCE AND MUST BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE HERITAGE OF ALL NATIONS. HE SAID THAT ITS USE SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ALL NATIONS. ONE LAST POINT WAS MADE BY THE COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE. HE SAID HE WAS PLEASED TO HEAR ARGENTINA RECOGNIZE THE ORBIT AS A LIMITED NATURAL RESOURCE, AND HE (COLOMBIA) WAS IN AGREEMENT THAT IT WAS PART OF THE HERITAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE DID EXPRESS, HOWEVER, THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LIMITED RESOURCE.

6. IN CONCLUSION, GENERAL TENOR OF THE MEETING WAS POSITIVE, WITH ALL COUNTRIES ENDORSING THE NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RIODE03372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0444
Format: TEL
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978079/aaaaahiy.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2099680
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CITEL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE III MEETING, JULY 24-28, 1978, RIO DE JANEIRO
TAGS: ETEL, US, CITEL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d5a827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014